categories and selections were made accordingly. As on 1.10.2002, the number of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships alloted by the following oil companies to the persons in these two categories in the country were as under:—

Oil Company	RO		LPG		SKO-LDO	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	681	259	484	163	223	92
Assam Oil Division	8	75	8	58	12	57
IBP Co. Ltd.	82	34	12	1	19	9
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	271	82	247	70	45	22
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	323	95	198	98	55	19

Production of Ethanol

1733. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the production capacity of ethanol in the country, State-wise;

(b) the actual production of ethanol, State-wise;

(c) whether levies proposed to be imposed on ethanol by States are likely to make the use of ethanol non-viable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Ethanol is a derivative of sugarcane molasses which is a decontrolled item. As such no data is being maintained.

(c) In the absence of fiscal concessions, the units producing anhydrous ethanol may not be competitive for the purposes of blending with motor spirit.

(d) State levies on sale, import/export of ethanol makes the price of ethanol higher than the price of motor spirit and renders the use of ethanol-blended motor spirit non-viable.

(e) State Governments have been requested to remove bottlenecks in setting up of ethanol projects, to simplify excise procedures and to reduce State levies on sale, import/export of ethanol.

New Policy on setting up of oil outlets

1734. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any policy relating to locations where sister OIL PSUs can set-up diesel and petrol outlets in different States;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have given free licence to Oil PSUs to setup petrol pumps and diesel outlets wherever they wish;

(c) if so, the details of this new policy giving absolute freedom to Oil PSUs;

(d) whether Government are aware that allottees of PSU petrol pumps will suffer frievously if there is no restriction in this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies have freedom to choose locations for setting up retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) in various parts of the country provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships.

Production of ethanol in Karnataka

1735. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of anhydrous ethanol being produced by sugar factories in Karnataka;

(b) the details of the districts in Karnataka which have been covered by ethanol blended petrol so far;

(c) by when the entire Karnataka will be covered; and